ILLINOIS
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

November 9, 2026

The ***Illinois International Business Calendar*** is published by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC). The ***Calendar*** is also available on our website: www.itagc.org. It is published every Friday, and available at no charge.

Inclusion Policy: As a public service to the international business community, we publish a listing of **international business events** for which we receive **written** notification, preferably by e-mail (info@itagc.org). Any organization may submit events that would be of interest to **and are open to** the Illinois international business community. There is no charge. All calendar listings are subject to the editor's discretion. Inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement by any of the sponsoring organizations.

Founded in 1978, the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC) is a not-for- profit, 501(c)6 voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms. The ITA/GC provides a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. Members share interests in import and export matters, in international investment, alliance, and licensing opportunities, and – in the broader sense – doing business across the world.

The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

New events, and events with additional/revised information, are indicated in Green.

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

Dec. 4 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!*** Twenty-second Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with support from the: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association (CITCA); Swiss American Business Council; and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Midwest. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots**. 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - $45; Non-members - $65. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-put-a-little-fa-la-la-la-la-la-in-your-season-tickets-2003791692894.

Dec. 9 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – CHRISTKINDLMARKET CHICAGO AT DALEY PLAZA***. Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Join us at the Grand Timber Haus inside Chicago's iconic Christkindlmarket for an evening of networking, conversation and the festive charm of the Christkindlmarket. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza - at Grand Timber Haus. Members of sponsoring organizations - $59; Non-members - $69. For information & registration, please see: https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-christkindlmarket-chicago-at-daley-plaza.

Of Note:

Surprising (Almost) No One, the US Trade Deficit Is Back to Pre-Tariff Levels: Writing for the Cato Institute, Scott Lincicome and Chad Smitson observe: …despite more than a year of historically high tariffs and after wild pre- and post-tariff gyrations, the nominal US trade deficit was actually higher in August than before this administration's grand tariff experiment began last spring—just as trade economists and other experts predicted before the tariffs began.

Global | AI Reprograms World Trade: BBVA Research reports: AI is reshaping global trade. Demand for tech products is growing at 30% year-on-year, now accounting for 20% of global trade. This boom, led by U.S. investment, benefits partners like Mexico and is transforming international supply chains.

Trump Administration Will Cut South Africa and Rwanda from the AGOA Trade Program: as reported by AP News, U.S. President Donald Trump will cut South Africa and Rwanda from a quarter-century-old Africa trade agreement at the end of the year as punishment for not meeting certain criteria, including policies on trade barriers and alignment with U.S. foreign policy, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said.

Trends in Regulation of Foreign Direct Investment into the United States: The Treasury Department, as the lead agency of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), recently released a public version of its 2025 Annual Report to Congress regarding foreign direct investment in the United States. The report highlights key indicators of the CFIUS process and provides statistics on transactions filed in 2025.

White House Orders Trade Talks on Robot and Machinery Imports, Months After FCC Curbed Foreign Robots: Barnes Richardson reports the White House released a proclamation on October 28 directing the Commerce secretary and the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate with foreign suppliers of robots and industrial machinery, saying import levels threaten to impair national security. The proclamation is issued under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and imposes no tariffs for now.

How the World's Largest Economies Compare in 2026: This *Visual Capitalist* graphic compares the world's 20 largest economies by nominal gross domestic product (GDP) and purchasing power parity (PPP), using 2026 projections from the IMF's October 2026 World Economic Outlook. The U.S. is the world's largest economy by nominal GDP in 2026, while China leads when adjusting for purchasing power.

How the World Economy Could Look in 2040: This graphic by *Visual Capitalist* shows projected GDP across 190 economies in 2040, using the World Economic League Table 2026. The global economy is projected to grow from approximately $124 trillion in 2026 to $227 trillion by 2040, an increase of 83% in nominal terms. China's share of global GDP is projected to rise to 21%, while America's falls to 23%.

USTR Urged to Permanently Suspend China-linked Ship Fees: According to *Supply Chain Dive*, trade groups and shipper associations representing retailers, manufacturers and other importers are urging U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to permanently suspend Section 301 fees on China-built or China-linked vessels. Section 301 fees on China-linked vessels have been paused for a year. The current suspension is set to lift November 9.

Census Bureau Releases International Population Estimates and Projections: On November 5 the Census Bureau released population estimates, projections, and other demographic data up to the year 2100 for 25 countries and areas in the International Database (IDB). The release also includes data for 16,638 subnational areas similar to U.S. states, counties and townships around the world, along with enhanced mapping features.

Santa's Sleigh Will Be Weighed Down by Tariffs: The Peterson Institute's Cullen S. Hendrix writes: If you have an athlete, artist, musician, or gamer on your shopping list, be ready: your gift-giving dollar won't stretch as far as it did in the 2024 holiday shopping season, or even last holiday season, when tariffs on these goods hit a recent peak. Each of these hobbies runs largely on imported gear, especially the entry-level items most parents buy.

China Distribution Agreements: How to Avoid a Bad Deal: Harris Sliwoski's China Law Blog offers some practical advice. Chinese distributors can help foreign companies reach customers without setting up a business in China. The wrong agreement can leave a supplier locked into years of poor sales, trademark disputes, or regulatory problems. Here are ten issues we address before a client signs.

New Exim Country Limitation Schedule Released: The new CLS may be accessed on-line as of October 29, 2026, at: https://www.exim.gov/resources/country-limitation-schedule.

Barnes Richardson Publishes Class Action Information Page: To help importers understand what the class action is designed to accomplish (and how) Barnes, Richardson & Colburn has created a webpage dedicated to the litigation that explains who belongs in the class, what class members should do now, and answers frequently asked questions. The CIT is also maintaining a repository where it will post documents related to the litigation.

International Commerce Chartbook: October 2026: BBVA researchers have compiled this comprehensive book on trends shaping international commerce. For example: "Rising protectionism and a shift toward diversification and self-sufficiency over efficiency have not led to deglobalization. Instead, global trade continues to expand rapidly, outpacing GDP growth."

The $128 Trillion Global Economy: Every Country's GDP Ranked: The world's economies vary enormously in size, from the United States at over $32 trillion to dozens of countries producing less than $100 billion annually. This *Visual Capitalist* visualization breaks down nominal gross domestic product (GDP) by country and region using new forecasts from the IMF's October 2026 World Economic Outlook.

The Race for Malaysia's Rare Earths: An Indo-Pacific Strategy: In this Center for Strategic & International Studies report, Meredith Schwartz observes that Malaysia has become a key player in the rare earth supply chain. At the center of Malaysia's strategic importance is its refining capacity: In 2025, it became the first country outside of China to produce dysprosium oxide, a key heavy rare earth for the defense industry.

USTR Seeks Public Comment on the 2027 Joint Review of USMCA: The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative announced a public consultation process in advance of the 2027 joint review of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA). The deadline for submission of comments is **January 12, 2027**, at 11:59 p.m. EST. The *Federal Register* notice is here. To submit comments, click here.

The New World Map the UN Wants You to Use: On Sept. 4, 2026, the UN General Assembly adopted the "Correct the Map" resolution by a 164-1 vote, endorsing the Equal Earth projection. *Visual Capitalist* presents this new map alongside the old Mercator projection. The lone dissenter: the U.S.

The $531 Million "Small" Business: SBA Proposes Massive Overhaul of Size Standards: Thompson Hine reports SBA recently published two proposed rules that would fundamentally redefine what qualifies as a "small" business. The first overhauls the methodology for setting size standards; the second applies that methodology to produce dramatically higher thresholds.

One of the World's Smallest Countries Has a New Name: Ther *New York Times* reports the South Pacific island of Nauru wants its name to more closely match how it is said in the language spoken by its people: **Naoero**. That's the new name for the small South Pacific country formerly known as Nauru. Its Parliament unanimously approved the change in May and the name became official, President David Adeang said last week,

Atlas of Global Development 2026: Across the global development landscape, which countries are moving the fastest, and which are losing ground? The 2026 edition of the World Bank's *Atlas of Global Development* puts progress at its center. Looking at how fast countries are moving toward better outcomes and facing different challenges, from their own individual starting points, this edition introduces a new framework to track development over the past 75 years, revealing how countries have advanced across key dimensions.

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Nov. 9 ***ANTIDUMPING***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide the information needed to help you know what to expect and how to participate in antidumping investigations. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/px7ud8j.

Nov. 10 ***INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS***. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on managing forwarders, brokers & carriers. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process—a comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. Coordinate your documents with transportation rules and procedures and gain a solid understanding of the critical components of logistics. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - $620; Non-members - $645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-nov-10-2026/?145944_grid_view=false.

Nov. 10 ***After Brazil's Election: What's Next for Latin America?*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, will examine the region's changing political and economic landscape and the challenges ahead. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.piie.com/events/2026/after-brazils-election-whats-next-latin-america.

Nov. 10 ***Leveraging Data & AI to Enhance Trade Compliance Programs***. Second in a series of workshops sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. Program examines how data, analytics, and AI are changing international trade compliance — and what those changes mean for your business. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 333 North Michigan Avenue, 4th Floor Meeting Room, Chicago. ITCC Members - $20; Non-members - $35. For information & registration, please see: https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6886183.

Nov. 10 ***Export Controls & Defense Procurement: ITAR/EAR Basics for Small Companies***. Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils, will explain the key differences between ITAR and EAR and how they apply to small companies pursuing defense contracts and exports of defense-related products, services and technologies. 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_muHrPkHfSOSgC0tCikCc_Q#/registration.

Nov. 10 ***Mock Audits: Finding Risks before Customs Does***. Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will demonstrate how a mock audit can help uncover risks, evaluate your import and export compliance programs, and strengthen your organization's audit readiness before Customs comes knocking. Topics include: *The key steps involved in conducting a trade compliance mock audit*; *Common risk areas reviewed during import and export compliance assessments*; *How to identify gaps, strengthen internal controls, and develop an action plan before an audit occurs*. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/november2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20November%20Webinar%20-%20Mock%20Audits&utm_content=New%20November%20Webinar%20-%20Mock%20Audits+CID_2332f5d91a3d9bce895ab97cc2ec3e6d&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Register%20Here.

Nov. 10 ***Navigating the Impact of Tariffs and Disruption***. Webinar, sponsored by the Small Business Development Center, University of Georgia in partnership with Blue Tiger International. Instructor **Tom Cook** discusses the current state of the global supply chain, outlining uncertainty and disruption with a special focus on tariffs and trade. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://files.constantcontact.com/f7adb5d7501/fe88165e-6792-4ea1-a6a8-733a2b88f078.pdf.

Nov. 10 ***Hannover Messe Roadshow 2026***. Hybrid event sponsored by Hannover Messe in partnership with the Illinois Economic Development Corporation (Illinois EDC). This session brings together trade experts, state and local partners, and U.S. companies with firsthand exhibiting experience to share practical guidance on taking your business international, from deciding whether a trade show is right for you to preparing, participating, and following up. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST. 150 North Michigan Avenue, Floor 35, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/hannover-messe-roadshow-2026-il.

Nov. 11 - 12 ***Exhibit with the State of Illinois at Advanced Design & Manufacturing, Montreal, Canada***. Qualified Illinois companies are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, to exhibit in the Illinois pavilion at the Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) Expo in Montreal. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: *Exhibit Space*; *25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines*; *Briefing Material*; *Pre-show promotion*; *Matchmaking Assistance*; *Assistance with travel and logistics*. Fee: $1,000. Application deadline: **September 10**. For information & registration, please contact: Chris.Sedgwick@illinois.gov.

Nov. 11 ***TARIFF CLASSIFICATION***. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, is for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information is not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. Shipments with incorrect classifications may not reach their destination, and/or you may be subjected to penalties. Join us for this interactive, in-person workshop. Registration includes a valuable reference book. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - $620; Non-members - $645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-nov-11-2026/.

Nov. 11 ***INTERNATIONAL TRADE: MANAGING RISKS AND REAPING REWARDS***. Luncheon program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association. This innovative session combines experienced risk managers, industry experts, and global trade leaders to learn best practices and compare notes so you can lean with confidence into the opportunities abroad for your products and services. Speakers: **Mike Klemp-North**, VP of Administration and Facilities Hsu's Ginseng; **Bruce Glaub**, Director, Trade Credit, M3 Insurance; **Hannah Misciasci**, International Advisor, M3 Insurance; **Pete Dewar**, Client Executive, M3 Insurance. 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., M3 Insurance, 828 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI. MITA Members - $55; Non-members - $80. For information & registration, please see: https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/international-trade-managing-risks-and-reaping-rewards-1903441?sourceTypeId=Website.

Nov. 11 ***BASIC EXPORT DOCUMENTATION***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide a comprehensive review of the most commonly used documents and terms in international trade. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6m3u44t.

Nov. 12 ***IMPORTING PROCEDURES***. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on the importance of accurate paperwork and timely reporting. Designed to help commercial importers become more aware of their regulatory obligations, learn your broker's responsibilities, and develop strategies for improving trade compliance within their organization. This course focuses on the import entry processes and the fundamental disciplines required for making an entry. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - $620; Non-members - $645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-procedures-chicago-nov-12-2026/,

Nov. 12 ***MEXICO'S EVOLVING LANDSCAPE—POLITICS, ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, AND U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS***. Virtual program, sponsored by the Inter-American Dialogue, will analyze the findings of Integralia's latest special report: "Second Year of Government: Claudia Sheinbaum". The panel will evaluate the administration's governance record, economic trajectory, security outlook, and the implications for future U.S.-Mexico relations. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://thedialogue.org/event/mexicos-evolving-landscape-politics-economic-outlook-and-u-s-mexico-relations.

Nov. 12 ***2026 MIDTERM ELECTION DEBRIEF***. Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, will focus on what the election results and incoming Congress could mean for US and international economic policy. Speakers will discuss: the geopolitical stakes of the midterms; the role of tariffs and trade wars on voter sentiment and implications for the new Congress; a forecast for US macroeconomic policy and US-China relations. 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.piie.com/events/2026/2026-midterm-election-debrief.

Nov. 12 ***SCHEDULE B AND HTS CODES - CLASSIFYING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the details of these codes and the general rules of interpretation to give you confidence in classifying your products for export or import. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xdwrvad.

Nov. 12 ***TRADES-GIVING***. Networking event sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Members will share their personal career journeys and the experiences that shaped their success. Meet innovative vendors, see real-world solutions, and discover what's next. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Keystone CoLABS, 800 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://itcgkc.org/event-6861528.

Nov. 12 ***PASSPORT TO FRANCE***. Sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago, this event celebrates French food and culture with signature cuisine from top chefs and restaurants, bringing together an exceptional array of businesses. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Artifact, 43.25 North Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago. FACC Members - $140 by September 1; $160 thereafter; Non-members - $200. For information & registration, please see: https://p2f-tix.carrd.co/.

Nov. 13 ***IMPORTING 201***. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, builds upon techniques presented in our Importing Procedures course and explains how to implement and strengthen your import controls. Course also describes what you should do to prepare for the eventuality of a CBP audit. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - $620; Non-members - $645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-201-chicago-nov-13-2026/.

Nov. 13 ***HOW TO ENTER THE CENTRAL ASIAN MARKET***. Luncheon seminar, sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center, will address: *Timely Report from Baku*; *Marketing and Advertising in Central Asia*; *Logistics Challenges in Central Asia*. 11:00 a.m., Wolf's Head Inn, 6937 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park, IL. CAPRC Members - $35; Non-members - $45. For information & registration, please contact: hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com.

Nov. 16 - 20 ***HONG KONG TRADE MISSION 2026***. IBS Global Consulting, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is organizing this mission in conjunction with the 27th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. The mission offers U.S. businesses firsthand insights into technology trends, market opportunities, and information on conducting business in Hong Kong, one of Asia's most vibrant business hubs. Companies in Emerging Technology & Innovation (e.g., MedTech, FoodTech, EdTech, and FinTech); Healthcare (e.g., Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals); AI and Robotics; ICT and Digitalization; Logistics; Professional Services (e.g., Consultants, Legal Services); and Financial Services are encouraged to apply. Fee: $1,250; deadline: **October 2, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: https://ibsglobalconsulting.com/hong-kong-trade-mission-2026.

Nov. 16 ***DUTIES AND TAXES: UNDERSTANDING THE FULL LANDED COST***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will show you how to figure out the HS Codes for your products and will provide resources for calculating the duties, taxes, and other fees that might apply to your international shipment. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xn7kjkd.

Nov. 16 ***THE STATE OF BANGLADESH: SOURCING TIMES REPORT INSIGHTS***. Webinar, sponsored by the American Apparel & Footwear Association and Harnest, provides an executive debrief of *The Sourcing Times: Bangladesh Report*, examining how the country's apparel and textile sector is evolving beyond its traditional position as a high-volume, low-cost sourcing market. Led by report author **Brooke Roberts-Islam**, the session explores labor reform and compliance, trade dynamics and LDC graduation, vertical integration, Tier 2 and 3 sourcing opportunities, circularity, renewable energy, and manufacturing innovation. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/Webinars/2026/2026_Landing_Pages/WEB261116.aspx.

Nov. 17 ***PRABOWO ADMINISTRATION TWO YEARS IN: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UPDATE***. Virtual program sponsored by the American Indonesia Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council. Presentation by **Kevin O'Rourke**, Principal, Reformasi Information Services who will provide a granular evaluation of current economic and political developments. 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://app.associationsphere.com/Event/EventInfo?prm=fNMmmWacv05sbM4j0450bbXNowdZhW0WUV80dbVOyWe5kr5WEDc4vStsmkwicdMacjVQFgAGOVCkLsvyRZ9w1QrDAZLKWDdOWG3yI5fRKxGH_CPfdHX-J-OXy-Ft4hdkPzHQYl_l285gAMHT9Q-Hq7in9wv_uaDTY6CzW_uLiQ0qAUkA2fGMFDaJ3OvvGI3rqdI1CNhrRgQUX83JS31APXemRbq-s0Irlm0wIx2OSNKyMx9lCjesN0bteKfWQThd0.

Nov. 17 ***FROM BALLOT TO BORDER—HOW MIDTERMS WILL REDEFINE THE U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP***. Virtual event, sponsored by the Inter-American Dialogue, will bring together a binational and bipartisan group of experts to unpack the midterm results, assess what they signal about the future U.S. policy toward Mexico, and explore how shifting power dynamics in Washington could reshape trade, security, and migration cooperation between the two countries in the months ahead. 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://thedialogue.org/event/online-event-from-ballot-to-border-how-midterms-will-redefine-the-u-s-mexico-relationship.

Nov. 17 ***CRITICAL DETAILS OF CUSTOMS VALUATION***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the finer details, rules, and terminology of customs valuation, which is especially important for unusual sales contracts, to help traders meet reasonable care obligations. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/v4qnx9x.

Nov. 18 ***CRAIG VANGRASSTEK PRESENTS: ON TRADE WAR***. Workshop sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association and the Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance, University of Nebraska–Lincoln. **Craig VanGrasstek**, Trade Historian and author, *On Trade War*, provides historical context for understanding the forces influencing today's global trade landscape. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Mammel Hall, 6708 Pine Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members - $0 - $35; Non-members - $75. For information & registration, please see: https://mitaonline.org/events/craig-vangrasstek-presents-on-trade-war/.

Nov. 18 ***PREPARING FOR EUFLR: STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE***. Webinar, sponsored by the American Apparel & Footwear Association, will explore the types of supply chain evidence organizations may be asked to provide under emerging regulations such as the EU Forced Labour Regulation (EUFLR), where brands commonly encounter challenges, and practical steps they can take today to strengthen their approach. Attendees will learn how forensic origin verification can complement existing traceability, supplier due diligence, and compliance programs by verifying whether a product is consistent with its claimed origin. The session will also examine how brands can use verified data to build stronger supply chain intelligence, support decision-making, and improve confidence in the information they rely on across complex supply chains. 1:00 -2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/Webinars/2026/2026_Landing_Pages/WEB261118.aspx.

Nov. 18 ***SINGAPORE AUTONOMOUS APPLICATIONS FOR MARITIME SECURITY***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and U.S. Embassy Singapore, will discuss Singapore's maritime security priorities, emerging technology needs, industry requirements and potential opportunities for U.S. companies. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b3a2e227-8fdc-419b-913b-f90ed705825b@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780.

Nov. 19 ***BEYOND THE CUSTOMS ENTRY: IDENTIFYING TARIFF RECOVERY OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPLIER COSTS***. Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers with RSK, will examine how organizations can trace tariff-related costs from the original import through supplier invoices, payments, credits, and subsequent adjustments to identify potential recovery opportunities. Speakers will explore the documentation needed to establish a defensible cost trail, distinguish legitimate recovery opportunities from unexplained pricing changes, and strengthen internal controls across trade compliance, procurement, finance, and legal functions. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://aaei.org/beyond-the-customs-entry-identifying-tariff-recovery-opportunities-in-supplier-costs/.

Nov. 23 ***UN PROCUREMENT EXPLAINED: HOW COMPANIES CAN COMPETE AND WIN***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will offer an overview of the UN's more than $27 billion procurement market. An expert will share insights into the organization's demand for goods and services. The presentation will explain how to get started with UN procurement, give tips for winning UN tenders, and provide resources for support. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6knu2dd.

Nov. 24 ***COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND RULES OF ORIGIN EXPLAINED***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will demonstrate how country of origin is determined for duty assessment, government procurement, and preferential trade programs. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/u9au8dw.

Nov. 30 ***EXPORTING TO AUSTRALIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss key market opportunities in Australia, the practical advantages of exporting under the U.S.–Australia Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA), and how to leverage the agreement to reduce costs and increase sales. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/djapz36.

Dec. 1 ***ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER***. Reception & dinner sponsored by the Swiss American Business Council. 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago. SABC Members - $200; Non-members - $250. For information & registration, please see: https://sabcnow.com/#.

Dec. 3 - 4 ***US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND SECURITY MISSION: INDONESIA***. Mission is designed to connect U.S. firms with key government stakeholders, distributors, industry partners, and procurement agencies. This program will provide high-impact opportunities to gain the latest market insights from experts and network with senior government officials and decision-makers. For information & an application, please see: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25lF8vMbP3gFvKtDYUBvdIgGFMziersuZUQzVVMjBaTUtDT0pCVVQ1SEdZN1laT0FTWS4u.

Dec. 4 ***BABC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2026***. Sponsored by the British American Chamber of Commerce Chicago, expect: Curated whisky reception; Three-course holiday meal at The Drake Hotel; Inspiring remarks from community leaders, including His Majesty's Consul General **Richard Hyde**; Fundraising raffle & seasonal entertainment; Holiday photo booth; Networking with executives, members, partners, and distinguished guests. 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., The Drake, 140 East Walton Place, Chicago. Members - $250; Non-members - $299. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/f7wx53t?source_id=ed04e12e-5fb4-43b6-a513-febf323ad1cc&source_type=em&c=8jQOrobaIqlBV3uQwO5UaJ7YwoqwsPWQw7G9r9V22yb4MUJxhqLM9w==.

Dec. 4 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!*** Twenty-second Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with support from the: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association (CITCA); Swiss American Business Council; and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Midwest. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots**. 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - $45; Non-members - $65. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-put-a-little-fa-la-la-la-la-in-your-season-tickets-2003791692894.

Dec. 5 - 15 ***SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E. & EGYPT TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) s leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration deadline: **September 18, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/saudi-arabia-uae-and-egypt-trade-mission-2026/.

Dec. 6 - Apr. 18 ***CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP - APRIL 2027 EXAMINATION***. Sponsored by The World Academy and the Alston Group, this course will assist you in the development of test taking reference familiarization, time management, Customs Regulations reference and Harmonized Tariff Schedule determination that will result in positive results in the development of each participant test taking ability towards a passing grade. Classes are held on alternate Sundays (8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CST) and consist of: Live lectures – Remote platform; Five-month instruction and help desk assistance; Group format with One-on-one tutorship options and Customs Examination preparation skills for positive results. Fee: $1,995. For information & registration, please see: https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course.

Dec. 7 - 8 ***US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND SECURITY MISSION: VIETNAM***. Mission is designed to connect U.S. firms with key government stakeholders, distributors, industry partners, and procurement agencies. This program will provide high-impact opportunities to gain the latest market insights from experts and network with senior government officials and decision-makers. For information & an application, please see: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25lF8vMbP3gFvKtDYUBvdIgGFMziersuZUQzVVMjBaTUtDT0pCVVQ1SEdZN1laT0FTWS4u.

Dec. 8 ***10TH CGCC CHICAGO ANNUAL GALA 2026***. Sponsored by the China General Chamber of Commerce Chicago, the event is a premier gathering of senior business executives, government officials, diplomatic representatives, and community leaders dedicated to strengthening U.S.–China economic and cultural ties. 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago. Fees from $1,068.91. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-cgcc-chicago-annual-gala-2026-tickets-2000315724178?aff=oddtdtcreator.

Dec. 9 - 11 ***ARGENTINA OIL, GAS AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE CERTIFIED TRADE MISSION***. Sponsored by the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and the U.S. Department of Commerce, the delegation will be accompanied by The Honorable David L. Fogel, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service for the International Trade Administration (ITA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. The mission will provide participating U.S. companies with unique opportunities to engage Argentine government and industry stakeholders and explore commercial opportunities across the oil and gas value chain, including drilling and completion equipment, hydraulic fracturing, oilfield services, logistics and field infrastructure, pipelines and gathering systems, processing and compression, and related digital and information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure. The mission will also serve as an opportunity for U.S. companies to learn more about and leverage emerging commercial opportunities created by the U.S.-Argentina Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment (ARTI), including reduced trade barriers and deepening bilateral trade and investment cooperation to advance shared strategic U.S. and Argentine economic and political objectives. For information & registration (deadline: **November 13**), please see: https://bciu.zohobackstage.com/ArgentinaEnergyOilGasCTM.

Dec. 9 ***2026 TRADE & TECH SUMMIT***. Hybrid program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will address such topics as: *The New Digital Trade Framework*; *The Role of U.S. in Global Tech Leadership*; *Working with Partners: Trade, Innovation and the AI Stack*; *The Tech, Trade, and Security Nexus*; *The Congressional Role in U.S. Global Tech Leadership*. 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. In-person - $150; virtual - $50. For information & registration, please see: https://www.wita.org/events/witas-trade-tech-summit-2026/.

Dec. 9 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – CHRISTKINDLMARKET CHICAGO AT DALEY PLAZA***. Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Join us at the Grand Timber Haus inside Chicago's iconic Christkindlmarket for an evening of networking, conversation and the festive charm of the Christkindlmarket. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza - at Grand Timber Haus. Members of sponsoring organizations - $59; Non-members - $69. For information & registration, please see: https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-christkindlmarket-chicago-at-daley-plaza.

Dec. 10 ***HONG KONG HOLIDAY RECEPTION***. Event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, New York, and Garrett Brands. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. HKBAM Members - $50; Non-members - $75. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hong-kong-holiday-reception-tickets-2003721913181?aff=oddtdtcreator.

Feb. 10 - 17 ***SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: **November 4, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/south-africa-and-kenya-trade-mission-2027/.

Feb. 15 ***ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR LUNCHEON***. Luncheon sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. 11:30 a.m., Evergreen Restaurant, 2411 South Wentworth Avenue, Chicago. CAPRC Members - $35; Non-members - $45. For information & registration, please contact: hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com.

Mar. 1 - 4 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS, BARCELONA, SPAIN***. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, invites qualified Illinois small businesses to exhibit within the Illinois Pavilion at Mobile World Congress 2027. The event is particularly relevant for companies developing Al, SG, loT, blockchain, quantum computing, mobile communications, lCT components and devices, systems, applications, and software solutions. Qualified Illinois companies will receive: Exhibit space within the Illinois Pavilion; One Gold Pass providing access to speaker sessions and high-level networking events; 25-75% reimbursement of eligible lodging and airfare expenses in accordance with ISTEP guidelines; Event briefing materials; Pre-show promotion through social media. Fee: $2,000. Application deadline: **December 11, 2026**. For information, please contact: riccardo.navon@illinois.gov.

Apr. 3 - 11 ***BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: January 8, 2027. For information & registration, please see: https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-paraguay-trade-mission-2027/.

Jun. 14 - 17 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT PARIS AIR SHOW, PARIS, FRANCE***. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, invites qualified Illinois small businesses to co-exhibit on the Illinois stand within the USA Pavilion at the Paris Air Show. The show brings together key players from the civil, commercial, defense, and space sectors, providing Illinois companies with an opportunity to showcase their expertise and innovations, develop new commercial opportunities, and establish technological and industrial partnerships. Illinois companies selected for the mission will receive: Exhibit space within the Illinois Pavilion; 25-75% partial reimbursement of eligible lodging and airfare costs, in accordance with ISTEP program eligibility guidelines; Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; B2B matchmaking services. Fee: $1,500. Application deadline: **February 26, 2027**. For information, please contact: riccardo.navon@illinois.gov.

About the ITA/GC

Founded in December 1977, **The International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)** was incorporated in January 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit, voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms by providing a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable**.

Annual membership dues are: Individual - $150; Consular/Diplomatic - $75 (up to 3 members); Academic/Faculty - $200 (up to 8 designated faculty members); Student from a participating academic institution - $25; Regular student - $50; Associate/Non-resident (more than 150 miles from O'Hare International Airport) - $50; Retired/Job Transition - $50; Corporate (up to 8 designated members) - $300. For a Membership Application, please call 773/725-1106; e-mail: info@itagc.org; or visit: www.itagc.org.

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About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (http://www.barnesrichardson.com) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

About KSM

KSM (Katz, Sapper & Miller) is one of the top 50 largest independent advisory, tax, and audit firms in the United States. Through our deep experience across multiple disciplines and industries, we provide clients with the inspiration, insight, and technical expertise they need to achieve great things. KSM's international team provides tax planning and consulting services to help businesses and individuals navigate all aspects of cross-border activity. Headquartered in Indianapolis, we operate multiple offices and serve an impressive roster of clients who count on us to be their trusted advisors. Learn more at ksmcpa.com.

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